

Remarks:

Claims 1-11 and 43 stand rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 44-51 are new.

Accordingly, Claims 1-11 and 43-51 are at issue.

Claims 1-11 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207. Claim 1 is amended to recite that the processor is configured to designate a selected vendor from the plurality of vendors and to provide the selected vendor with access to selected information from the predetermined first portion of the database of client information. This allows a client to select which vendor (if any) receives additional information relating to the client to complete a transaction, e.g., the clients identity, credit card information or other purchasing information. In contrast, Walker et al. describes conditional purchase offers (CPO's) that specify the subject of goods a buyer wishes to purchase, a description of the goods he wishes to obtain, and any other conditions that the buyer may require. Walker, et al., col. 8, ll. 46-49. The CPO's are a binding purchase offer. E.g., Col. 8, ll. 28-32. Thus, Walker et al. teaches away from the invention as claimed in claim 1, which allows the client to decide which vendor is selected. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed allowable over Walker, et al. Additionally, claims 2-11 and 43-45, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also believed allowable for this same reason.

New claim 46 recites a transaction service provider that has an electronic commerce server and an internal server. The transaction service provider of claim 46 recites configuring a processor to allow a client to designate as confidential a first portion of the transaction service provider archive, including client identifying information. In contrast Walker, et al., describes a user making a conditional purchase order available, which discloses the identity of the prospective purchaser. E.g., Waller et al., Col. 16 ll. 51-60. Accordingly, claim 46 is believed

allowable over Walker, et al. Additionally, claims 47-51, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 44 are also believed allowable for this same reason.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly submitted. If the Examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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